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Senate

State of Minnesota

June 10, 2003

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

This month the Federal Communications Commission will be voting on Qwest Communications application to provide long-distance service in Minnesota. I am writing to urge the FCC to approve Qwest's application to enter the Minnesota market.

In the Minnesota Senate, I am the Vice Chairman of the Commerce & Utilities Committee and serve on the Telecommunications & Technology Subcommittee where we have jurisdiction over telecommunications policy. The legislative district I represent contains 30 exchanges – only three are owned by Qwest, but all have the ability to offer long-distance service to their customers. My legislative district contains many small businesses and a Fortune 500 company that stand to benefit from a more competitive long-distance market.

One of my top priorities in the Telecommunications Subcommittee is maintaining a competitive telecommunications marketplace. In Minnesota we have one of the most competitive markets for local telecommunications service in the entire nation. Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, cable telephony providers and wireless providers have taken substantial market share away from Qwest. It's clear to anyone looking at market share numbers and access line loss that the goal of the 1996 Telecommunications Act to create a competitive market for local telecommunications service is succeeding.

The Minnesota market is strong and the systems tests are the same as the other Qwest states that have received approval to enter the long-distance market. It is time for legislators, regulators and the telecommunications industry to move on to other telecommunications priorities. I encourage the FCC to approve Qwest's application for long-distance.

Sincerely,



Dan Sparks

COMMITTEES: Vice Chair, Commerce & Utilities Committee; Chair, Consumer Protection and Banking Sub-Committee; E-12 Education Budget Division; Agriculture, General Legislation & Veterans Affairs
SERVING: Mower, Freeborn and Fillmore Counties

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